Conference on Disarmament

English

Final record of the one thousand four hundred and fifth plenary meeting
Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 14 February 2017, at 10.15 a.m.

President: Mr. Adrian Cosmin Vierita .....(Romania)

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The President: I call to order the 1405th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Excellencies, dear colleagues, Mr. Møller, Ms. Soliman, ladies and gentlemen, I welcome you all back to the Council Chamber for this plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament. Please allow me to thank you for attending last Friday's informal plenary meeting and for all the valuable and very constructive feedback and inputs you provided on the draft decision which I had circulated last week as document CD/WP.599.

Before we proceed, it is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to our new colleague who has assumed responsibilities as the representative of his Government to the Conference, His Excellency Mr. Han Tae-song, Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. On behalf of my Government and on behalf of the Conference, I would like to take this opportunity to assure you of our full cooperation and support in your new assignment.

Since our last plenary meeting, we have received a request from one delegation wishing to participate in our work as a non-member State. The list is before you as document CD/WP.598/Add.3, which includes all requests received by 3 p.m. yesterday, Monday, 13 February 2017. Requests received after the issuance of that document will be considered at the next plenary meeting. If there are no comments on this request, may I take it that the Conference decides to invite this State to participate in our work in accordance with the rules of procedure?

It was so decided.

The President: Allow me to suspend the meeting for a brief moment in order to allow the representative of the non-member State that has just been invited to participate in the work of the Conference to take a seat in the Council Chamber.

The meeting was briefly suspended.

The President: Excellencies, dear colleagues, based on your feedback I have revised the draft decision to establish a working group on the way ahead, of which the secretariat circulated an advance copy yesterday evening to all delegations. It will be issued today as document CD/WP.599/Rev.1. I have tried to take into account all your comments and suggestions in order to prepare a revised text that could be adopted by consensus. I have especially tried to be more precise and eliminate ambiguities without, however, affecting the substance of the proposal.

My goal is, and always has been, that all delegations have ownership of this decision. I have, therefore, clarified that the working group will have one Chair throughout the 2017 session and that the Chair will work in coordination with the President of the Conference. I have also elaborated on the mandate and reconfirmed the application of the rules of procedure to this proposed subsidiary body. As I indicated at yesterday's meeting of the Presidents of the 2017 session and also to the coordinators of the regional groups, it is not my intention to take action on the draft decision today, as I understand that delegations may need a little more time to study it carefully. I will, therefore, convene a plenary meeting on Friday, 17 February 2017, in the morning.

At this time, I would like to turn to the list of speakers for today. I now give the floor to the representative of Morocco, Ambassador Mohamed Aujjar.

Mr. Aujjar (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, as I am taking the floor for the first time, allow me to begin by warmly congratulating you on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament and by expressing my appreciation for the open, transparent and efficient manner in which you are conducting the work of the Conference. I would like to assure you of my full support and of my delegation's cooperation in your efforts to advance the work of the Conference this year. In this respect, the Kingdom of Morocco, motivated by a desire to contribute to any effort aimed at yielding tangible results in the negotiations and at reaching a consensus, supports the draft decision on the establishment of a working group, which was the subject of open and transparent consultations. We believe that this initiative represents an opportunity to resume substantive work, make progress on disarmament issues and lift disarmament forums out of

their current stalemate. However, this desire, which is shared by several delegations, requires a resolute and collective diplomatic effort and greater political will from States.

This session is taking place in an international context dominated by a resurgence of the threat of terrorism in many regions of the world and the escalation of regional geopolitical tensions that are making the world more uncertain every day. It is also being held just after the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which unfortunately did not produce any substantive outcomes and therefore casts doubt on the prospects for nuclear disarmament and the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. It was thus another missed historic opportunity to launch a process aimed at freeing the region of weapons of mass destruction, to boost international peace and security, to build a climate of trust among countries in the region and to open up new avenues for cooperation and coexistence that could be beneficial to every country in the region.

Morocco remains convinced that nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction do not constitute a guarantee of security or effective stability regionally or internationally. The security of all lies, rather, in dialogue, mutual respect and the development of economic partnerships that promote effective and sustainable human development. At the same time, the changing global strategic environment, the spread of terrorism and the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction make it imperative that we redouble our efforts to come to an understanding on the issues of non-proliferation, arms control and the disarmament agenda. Indeed, in a globalized world, the security of a country or region remains closely related, more than ever, to that of the rest of the world, hence the need for the Conference on Disarmament to adopt an integrated and pragmatic approach that will enable it to fulfil its intended mission as the sole multilateral body for negotiating multilateral disarmament instruments. Of course, we share the view that the Conference's problems are, in reality, of a political nature. However, we consider that the proposal and adoption of a balanced programme of work are key to moving forward and to allowing the Conference to fully play its role as the sole forum for negotiations. The Moroccan delegation remains willing to examine, in a constructive spirit, any proposal or initiative to breathe new life into the disarmament machinery and, in particular, to break the deadlock in the Conference.

Morocco, which regards chemical, biological and nuclear proliferation and terrorism as a genuine threat to peace and stability in the world, attaches particular importance to the exchange of information and experience and to the strengthening of international and regional cooperation on nuclear security and of the fight against the illicit trafficking of biological, radioactive and nuclear materials. In this regard, Morocco subscribes to the action plan adopted at the Washington Summit to secure vulnerable nuclear materials around the world and it is engaged in the enhancement of the international nuclear security system, in pursuit of a vision that advocates the reinforcement of multilateral action through the preservation of a balance between the right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy for development purposes and strict compliance with commitments on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In this respect, Morocco, as part of a proactive, multidimensional approach, has taken several concrete measures. These have included strengthening the legal framework in the areas of nuclear safety and security through the adoption of a law on nuclear and radiological safety and security, and the submission to the 1540 Committee, in July 2015, of an updated national report highlighting the efforts made by Morocco to meet its obligations under Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

On 25 October 2015, Morocco, pursuing its efforts to accede to all conventions related to nuclear safety and security, deposited the instruments of ratification of the 2005 amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which was opened for signature on 3 March 1980. Morocco also set up the Moroccan Agency on Nuclear and Radiological Safety and Security to serve as the national authority. The Agency recently developed its strategic vision, drew up its action plan for the period 2017-2021 and established its regulatory and management system.

In addition, Morocco, which has, since 2011, been home to a centre of excellence for the mitigation of nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical risks for African countries bordering the Atlantic Ocean, has worked to implement projects aimed at bolstering the institutional capacities of various countries to manage nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical risks. It has also supported the development of national action plans on the prevention of such risks. It is in that same spirit that, during the second week of May, Morocco plans to conduct a peer-review exercise concerning the implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. Through this initiative, Morocco intends to contribute to building trust among States parties and to encourage the exchange and sharing of best practices in biosafety and biosecurity.

I cannot end my statement without reaffirming the ardent wish of Morocco to see the Conference on Disarmament embark, during this session, on substantive work and thereby live up to the expectations of the international community. The Conference's credibility and relevance, if not its very survival, are at stake.

The President: I thank the representative of Morocco for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ambassador Han Tae-song.

Mr. Han Tae-song (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. President, it is a pleasure for me to attend this meeting as my first activity as Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.

Let me start by congratulating you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. I wish you every success.

It is the common aspiration of peoples throughout the world to live in peace and stability and, therefore, disarmament is of the utmost importance in building such a peaceful world. However, it is regrettable that the Conference on Disarmament is in a long-standing stalemate with no tangible results, contrary to the expectations of the international community. The basic reason for that lies in the persistent manipulation of the Conference by some big Powers according to their own interests and without a clear commitment to disarmament. It is hard to imagine any substantive progress in the work of the Conference unless such double standards are completely removed. Whether or not we achieve nuclear disarmament depends largely on political determination and will on the part of big Powers that maintain the largest nuclear stockpiles. However, recent global developments have demonstrated that nuclear Powers compete with each other in the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons based on their own strategic interests.

Mr. President, the Korean Peninsula remains the world's biggest hotspot with a constant danger of war hanging over it. In particular, nuclear threats and blackmail towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for more than half a century — posed by the world's largest nuclear-weapon State — infringe upon the right to life and the existence of the Korean people and have impaired their peaceful development. The large-scale, joint military exercises conducted at the doorstep of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under the pretext of being an annual event seriously undermine peace and security on the Korean Peninsula as well as in the region.

It is within the legitimate right of self-defence of a sovereign State to possess strong deterrents to cope with such a threat by hostile forces aiming to overthrow the State and the social system. The various test fires conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for building up its self-defence capabilities are, with no exceptions, self-defensive measures to protect national sovereignty and the safety of the people against a direct threat by hostile forces. No one can argue about this legitimate right.

The successful test launch of a medium-to-long-range missile on 12 February is part of our self-defence measures. In this respect, my delegation strongly rejects the latest statement of the United Nations Security Council and all United Nations resolutions against my country.

In order to remove the danger of war and preserve permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula, the root causes of the escalation of tension — such as hostile policy, nuclear

threat, blackmail and joint military exercises targeting the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — should come to an end once and for all.

Mr. President, the total elimination of nuclear weapons and global denuclearization are a common goal of all humankind and at the same time the constant stand of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea supports global efforts towards nuclear disarmament and complete elimination of nuclear weapons and we play a responsible role in contributing to achieving global denuclearization.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you of our full cooperation in achieving a substantive outcome of the Conference on Disarmament this year.

The President: I thank the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Japan, Ambassador Nobushige Takamizawa.

Mr. Takamizawa (Japan): Mr. President, my delegation would like to refer to the recent ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It is unacceptable that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea once again conducted a missile launch on 12 February. It is not only a clear violation of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2321 (2016), but also a provocation which undermines the peace and security of the region and the international community, including Japan. Therefore, we strongly condemn the launch and urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions and other international commitments without taking further provocative actions.

The President: I thank the representative of Japan for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea, Ambassador Kim In-chul.

Mr. Kim In-chul (Republic of Korea): Mr. President, the firing of a ballistic missile by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea last Sunday constitutes yet another flagrant and clear violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions, as well as a grave threat to peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and for the international community as a whole.

The Government of the Republic of Korea condemns this provocation by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the strongest terms. These repeated provocations are a direct challenge to the united resolve of the international community and demonstrate the unreasonable nature of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and their fanatical obsession with the pursuit of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. The routinized provocations by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will only serve to further strengthen the international community's resolve for the denuclearization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including through the faithful implementation of Security Council sanctions.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will have to realize that there is no future for them unless they abandon all nuclear and missile programmes.

The President: I thank the representative of the Republic of Korea for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Malta on behalf of the European Union, Ambassador Carl Hallergard.

Mr. Hallergard (Malta): Mr. President, I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the European Union.

The European Union has repeatedly expressed its grave concern in this and other forums about the nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which violate multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions and represent a direct threat to international peace and security.

On 12 February 2017, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea launched a ballistic missile, another violation of relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2321 (2016) adopted in November 2016. The repeated disregard by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of its international obligations is provocative and

unacceptable. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must halt all launches using ballistic missile technology and abandon once and for all its ballistic missile, nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, as required by the Security Council.

Once again, the irresponsible behaviour of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea underlines the necessity of the universalization and the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The European Union calls upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and all other States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty without further delay.

We furthermore call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain from any action that further increases regional tensions and to re-engage in a credible and meaningful dialogue with the international community, in particular within the Six-Party Talks. We will engage our partners to further discuss the international response.

The President: I thank the representative of Malta for his statement on behalf of the European Union. I now give the floor to the representative of the United Kingdom, Mr. Guy Pollard.

Mr. Pollard (United Kingdom): Mr. President, the United Kingdom welcomes the unanimously agreed United Nations Security Council press statement released yesterday regarding the actions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We strongly condemn the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for launching a ballistic missile on 12 February in flagrant disregard of Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2321 (2016) adopted in November 2016.

The repeated violation of Security Council resolutions by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea again underlines its irresponsible behaviour. The only credible way the Democratic People's Republic of Korea can re-engage with the international community is by halting all missile launches and abandoning its missile, nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

We call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cease in its destabilizing and dangerous behaviour and instead rebuild a future for its people.

The President: I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of the United States, Ambassador Robert Wood.

Mr. Wood (United States of America): Mr. President, the ballistic missile launch by North Korea on Sunday was highly provocative. North Korea has violated United Nations Security Council resolutions repeatedly. There is no dispute that their continued nuclear programme threatens international peace and security.

This weekend's launch defied six Security Council resolutions adopted over the past 10 years. North Korea is strictly prohibited from conducting any launch using ballistic missile technology, and yet North Korea continues to proceed in defiance of the international community. The weapons programmes of North Korea represent a clear threat to the national security of every country in its region and have for some time. As its programme continues to grow, it threatens the security of every country beyond its region as well.

Against this backdrop, the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 2321 (2016) and 2270 (2016), must be fully implemented and now. Let there be no doubt. The United States is committed to holding North Korea accountable for its behaviour. We call on all States to use every available channel and means of influence to make clear to the North Korean regime and its enablers that these launches are unacceptable.

All efforts to advance the nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles capabilities of North Korea must cease. If ever there was a situation that called for collective international action to ensure our mutual security, it is this. In this regard, the United States reaffirms its ironclad commitment to defend ourselves and our allies with the full range of our capabilities.

And if I may, Mr. President, just to respond to the comments made by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with regard to United States-Republic of Korea exercises, our annual joint military exercises -- as we have said repeatedly in this chamber — are transparent, defence-oriented and have been carried out regularly and openly under the Combined Forces Command for roughly 40 years. They are designed to increase our readiness to defend the Republic of Korea, protect the region and maintain stability on the Korean Peninsula. These exercises are a clear demonstration of the United States commitment to the alliance. The exercises are carried out in accordance with the armistice. The United Nations Command informs the People's Army of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea about the exercise dates and the non-provocative nature of the training. We note that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea did not notify anyone about the launches we are here to discuss.

The President: I thank the representative of the United States for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Australia, Ambassador John Quinn.

Mr. Quinn (Australia): Mr. President, let me first congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency. Let me also assure you of the support and cooperation of my delegation.

Mr. President, we very much appreciate your proactive and creative efforts to secure progress on agreeing a programme of work. More specifically, Australia welcomes and supports your idea of establishing a working group on the way ahead. We look forward to engaging constructively on your proposed revised draft decision on the establishment of such a working group, which we support.

The working group you propose could provide the necessary opportunity for both substantive and technical discussions on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament with a view to finding common ground, thus moving us closer to an agreed programme of work and commencement of negotiations, which have for so long proved elusive. We sorely need to find a way for the Conference to cut through the current impasse and start to deliver results. This is in all of our mutual security interests. To use a colloquial phrase, we think we should "give it a go".

Mr. President, I now turn to an issue of serious concern for the Australian Government and the wider international community, as is apparent from the series of statements we have heard today: the launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of a ballistic missile on 12 February. Australia condemns the latest ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which is a clear breach of United Nations Security Council resolutions and a further threat to regional and global peace and stability.

This latest test follows an unprecedented and provocative programme of weapons testing during 2016, including two nuclear tests and over 20 ballistic missile launches. We stand firm with our allies and regional partners in condemning these further provocative actions by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Australia calls on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cease its provocative behaviour, abandon its nuclear and missile programmes and engage constructively with the international community.

We should add that there is a pressing need for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to improve the welfare of the impoverished people of North Korea, rather than diverting its resources to develop destabilizing nuclear weapons and missiles.

We therefore welcome strong action by the Security Council, including in unanimously adopting resolutions 2270 (2016) and 2321 (2016).

It is crucial for the international community to continue to focus on implementing Security Council and autonomous sanctions, increasing the cost to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of its unacceptable behaviour and pressing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to change its approach.

The President: I thank the representative of Australia for his statement and for his kind words. I now give the floor to the representative of Finland, Ambassador Terhi Hakala.

Ms. Hakala (Finland): Mr. President, let me start by warmly welcoming my new colleague from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Conference on Disarmament today. At the same time, I must state the following: Finland strongly condemns the missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The launch of the ballistic missile is one of the recent serious violations by North Korea of its international commitments and obligations. Finland fully aligns itself with the statement read out by the representative of the European Union.

The United Nations Security Council has also condemned the earlier nuclear and missile tests of North Korea. The launch on 12 February violates earlier resolutions of the Security Council as well as resolution 2321 (2016) adopted just recently in November 2016. The launch is an indication of serious disregard for the reactions of the international community and for the obligations set for North Korea. Furthermore, the repeated launches increase regional tensions and undermine security on the Korean Peninsula.

Therefore, Finland urges North Korea to strictly comply with its international obligations. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must halt all launches using ballistic missile technology and abandon once and for all its ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

Finland urges North Korea to engage in close dialogue and cooperation with the international community and to fully participate in the Six-Party Talks aimed at a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula.

The President: I thank the representative of Finland for her statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Canada, Mr. John Davison.

Mr. Davison (Canada): Mr. President, Canada unequivocally condemns the recent missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 12 February 2017 that utilized ballistic missile technology, which is under United Nations sanctions. Like the other missile launches and nuclear tests of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, this launch represents a threat not only to the security and stability of the region but to international peace and security as a whole. This use of ballistic missile technology directly violates multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions and demonstrates a defiance of the international obligations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Canada therefore calls on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply with its international obligations and cease these destabilizing actions. Canada supports efforts at both the international and regional levels to restrain the dangerous actions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and reinforce security in the Asia-Pacific region.

The President: I thank the representative of Canada for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Germany, Mr. Toralf Pilz.

Mr. Pilz (Germany): Mr. President, please allow me to read out a statement on behalf of the Federal Government of Germany:

> Germany fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Germany condemns in the strongest possible terms the ballistic missile test carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 12 February 2017. This ballistic missile launch, as each and every ballistic missile launch carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, constitutes another intolerable violation of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2321 (2016) adopted in November 2016.
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> Germany entirely shares the grave concerns expressed in particular by regional partners. The behaviour of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will only lead to further international isolation. Germany fully supports the latest demand by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, who called upon the leadership of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to return to full compliance with its international obligations and to the path of denuclearization.
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> The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must halt all ballistic missile, nuclear and weapons of mass destruction programmes immediately.

The President: I thank the representative of Germany for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey, Mr. Ufuk Güneş.

Mr. Güneş (Turkey): Mr. President, I would like to quote from the press release posted on the website of my Ministry regarding the ballistic missile launch conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 12 February 2017:

> We strongly condemn the ballistic missile launch conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 12 February 2017. This launch constitutes yet another violation of the international obligations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This is clearly not conducive to efforts aimed at ensuring peace and stability in the region.
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> We call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea once again to cease its ballistic missile launches and other activities threatening regional as well as international security and stability, and to fully comply with its international obligations under relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The President: I thank the representative of Turkey for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Italy, Ms. Palma D'Ambrosio.

Ms. D'Ambrosio (Italy): Mr. President, Italy joins in the statement delivered earlier by the European Union. In a national capacity, I would like to express the great concern of Italy over the intermediate-range ballistic missile that was launched by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea last Sunday. That country's repeated nuclear and ballistic missile tests, as well as the development of a nuclear arsenal, constitute a threat to international peace and security. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has once again openly violated United Nations Security Council resolutions. We strongly condemn this further initiative.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must relinquish the idea of developing an arsenal of missiles and nuclear weapons and abandon the road taken towards self-isolation and challenging the international community. We call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abandon all its existing ballistic missile and nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner and to refrain from any further provocative action.

Furthermore, we urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards at an early date as well as to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

The President: I thank the representative of Italy for her statement. I now give the floor to the representative of the Netherlands, Mr. Mark Versteden.

Mr. Versteden (Netherlands): Mr. President, in addition to the statement on behalf of the European Union, we would like to make the following remarks in a national capacity.

The Netherlands is very concerned about the ongoing nuclear missile tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, most recently on 12 February. We strongly condemn these activities which are destabilizing for the region and for international security as a whole. In this regard, we welcome yesterday's condemnation by the United Nations Security Council of the test conducted on 12 February. We call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to re-engage in the Six-Party Talks and to do so in good faith.

The recent tests underline once again the importance of full and worldwide implementation of the sanctions to stop the ongoing provocations and destabilizing activities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The President: I thank the representative of the Netherlands for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Switzerland, Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior.

Ms. Dallafior (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, as I am taking the floor for the first time in a formal meeting under your presidency, allow me to express our appreciation for the way in which you are carrying out your duties.

We are taking the floor in connection with the announcement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that it carried out a new ballistic missile launch on 11 February. Switzerland strongly condemns this act, which is in breach of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions requiring the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abandon all missile and nuclear programmes in a verifiable and irreversible manner. This launch not only violates Security Council resolutions, but it also poses a threat to regional peace and security and undermines the international community's efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Switzerland is convinced that a solution to the nuclear and security issue in the Korean Peninsula can be found only through diplomatic negotiations. It reiterates its support for the Six-Party Talks and encourages the various stakeholders to make every effort to deliver a response to the current situation. It also stands ready to consider any proposal that may contribute to efforts to promote stability and peace in the Korean Peninsula.

The President: I thank the representative of Switzerland for her statement and for her kind words. I now give the floor to the representative of China, Ambassador Fu Cong.

Mr. Fu Cong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Mr. President, the Chinese delegation wishes to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. We also welcome Ambassador Han Tae-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and we look forward to good cooperation with him.

China has noted the latest missile test by North Korea and is closely monitoring developments in the situation. Security Council resolutions contain clear provisions regarding the use by North Korea of ballistic missile technology for launch activities. China opposes the conduct by North Korea of missile launches in violation of Security Council resolutions. In the current situation, the parties involved should refrain from mutual provocations that further exacerbate tensions in the region. All parties should exercise restraint and jointly maintain peace and stability in the region.

As a permanent member of the Security Council and a responsible member of the international community, China has always comprehensively and thoroughly implemented the relevant Security Council resolutions and actively promoted peace talks, and it has made unremitting efforts to promote the resolution of the Korean Peninsula issue. We believe that dialogue and consultation are, ultimately, the solution to that issue. We have continuously encouraged the parties involved to strengthen communication and engage in dialogue and contact; we trust that they will shoulder their commensurate responsibilities and do what they should.

China stands ready to continue seeking a suitable resolution to the Korean Peninsula issue within the framework of the Six-Party Talks and to maintain peace and stability on the Peninsula.

The President: I thank the representative of China for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of the Russian Federation, Ambassador Alexander Deyneko.

Mr. Deyneko (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Mr. President, we regard the launching of a rocket by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 12 February as further provocative flouting of the requirements of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. This can only give rise to regret and concern.

In the current circumstances we call on all interested parties to display calm and to refrain from acts leading to any further escalation of tension.

We are convinced that there is no alternative to settling the problems of the Korean Peninsula, including nuclear issues, other than by the appropriate political and diplomatic means. The path to peace and stability in the region lies in the rejection of confrontation and in efforts to achieve a general improvement in the military and political environment of North-East Asia.

The President: I thank the representative of the Russian Federation for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Kazakhstan, Mr. Arsen Omarov.

Mr. Omarov (Kazakhstan): Mr. President, I would like to join the voice of the international community in condemning the ballistic missile test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 12 February. My Foreign Ministry has already made an official statement concerning this act of violence against United Nations Security Council resolutions.

As a country that has voluntarily renounced its nuclear weapons and is now the Chair of the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, Kazakhstan is convinced that this action has an extremely negative effect on the process of nuclear disarmament and poses a threat to regional and global security.

We call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and other parties to return immediately to the Six-Party Talks.

The President: I thank the representative of Kazakhstan for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of France, Ambassador Alice Guitton.

Ms. Guitton (France) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, allow me to begin by reiterating my delegation's full support for your efforts in leading our work and our appreciation for the outstanding manner in which you have moved forward with our agenda.

France associates itself fully with the statement made earlier by the European Union. Echoing the statement made by the spokesperson for the French Foreign Minister, I would like to comment as well on the missile launch carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 12 February in violation of Security Council resolutions. Reference is made, in this regard, to the press release published yesterday by the Security Council, which my country fully endorses.

France condemns this launch and reiterates its solidarity with its partners in the Asia-Pacific region whose security is threatened by the North Korean nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. The international community must come together and take immediate action to prevent North Korea from having an operational nuclear arsenal. In addition, my country is in contact with all the States concerned, in particular the permanent members of the Security Council, Japan and South Korea, with a view to giving a firm and determined response that will lead to the full implementation of Security Council resolutions 2270 (2016) and 2321 (2016), and, as far as possible, to the adoption of further restrictive measures by the European Union.

The President: I thank the representative of France for her statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Spain, Ambassador Julio Herráiz España.

Mr. Herráiz España (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, Spain fully endorses the statement made earlier by the European Union concerning the ballistic missile launch conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 12 February 2017. In a national capacity, Spain also wishes to express its grave concern at and condemnation of this further violation of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2321 (2016).

That country's repeated disregard for its international obligations is irresponsible and poses a threat to peace and security. We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abandon once and for all its nuclear and ballistic weapons programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, as required by the Security Council resolutions, and to re-engage in a credible and meaningful dialogue with the international community.

The President: I thank the representative of Spain for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Bulgaria, Ms. Assia Davidova.

Ms. Davidova (Bulgaria): Mr. President, Bulgaria fully subscribes to the statement made on behalf of the European Union. In a national capacity, I would like to make the following remarks on the latest ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

A statement expressing the Bulgarian position was issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday. It is with great concern that we received the news of the latest ballistic missile launch carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 12 February 2017. This is yet another direct violation of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2321 (2016) adopted last November. It is a provocative act that aggravates the tension in the region and poses a direct threat to international peace and security.

We persistently call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to suspend its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, to join the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, as well as to resume dialogue with the international community in a credible and meaningful manner, including in the framework of the Six-Party Talks.

The President: I thank the representative of Bulgaria for her statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Poland, Mr. Miroslaw Broilo.

Mr. Broilo (Poland): Mr. President, Poland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. We perceive the most recent ballistic missile test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as another violation of its international obligations and of United Nations Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2321 (2016).

The missile tests carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea pose a threat to security and stability on the Korean Peninsula. They also upset the international system of non-proliferation and arms control, since such activities contribute to the development of nuclear weapons delivery systems and increase tension. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea should refrain from such actions.

We therefore support all international efforts to re-engage the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in a constructive dialogue in order to build permanent security and stability in the region and beyond.

The President: I thank the representative of Poland for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Pakistan, Mr. Usman Jadoon.

Mr. Jadoon (Pakistan): Mr. President, allow me first of all to welcome the new Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Conference on Disarmament.

I would like to read out the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan concerning the missile test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea:

> Pakistan Deplores Missile Tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
>
> The latest missile test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions. Pakistan calls upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain from any step that undermines the prospects of regional peace and stability. Pakistan has consistently supported a nuclear-weapons-free Korean Peninsula, as agreed by all parties. It calls upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain from actions which run counter to the objective of reaching a peaceful and diplomatic solution to the issue within the framework of the Six-Party Talks.

The President: I thank the representative of Pakistan for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Ukraine, Mr. Denys Demchenko.

Mr. Demchenko (Ukraine): Mr. President, Ukraine condemns the launch of a ballistic missile conducted by North Korea on 12 February. Such actions are a direct violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2321 (2016). The launch of a ballistic missile by North Korea could lead not only to additional escalation of tensions on the Korean Peninsula but also to further aggravation of the security situation in the world.

Ukraine, as a country that has voluntarily dismantled its own nuclear arsenal and strictly abides by the principles of nuclear non-proliferation, will use all possible leverage

in its capacity as a non-permanent member of the Security Council in order to return North Korea to the international legal framework.

We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to stop its provocations in the form of the ballistic missile launches and nuclear tests and to renew its dialogue with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The President: I thank the representative of Ukraine for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Colombia, Mr. Francisco González.

Mr. González (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, as this is the first time that my delegation has taken the floor under your presidency, allow me to congratulate you on the assumption of your duties and thank you for your tireless efforts to advance the work of the Conference on Disarmament.

My delegation has closely followed your consultation process, the purpose of which was to put forward a draft decision on the establishment of a working group on the way ahead to identify common ground for a programme of work with a negotiating mandate. We are happy to see that your proposed draft decision has points in common with document CD/1913, which Colombia submitted in a national capacity in 2011 and which represents a reflection on the state of affairs in the Conference and how to strengthen it.

For my delegation, it is particularly important for the Conference's work to focus on achieving a negotiating mandate. We agree with the stance of other member States who have said that the mandate of the Conference on Disarmament is none other than to negotiate disarmament treaties. The Conference can no longer shirk its responsibility as the single disarmament negotiating forum. We have remarked with interest how deftly you have handled the observations made regarding your proposal. The text you have submitted amply finds common ground for the adoption of this key decision, the draft version of which we submitted to our capital for consideration.

Mr. President, while I have the floor, I would also like to reaffirm the position of the Government of Colombia concerning the ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Our position was expressed in the statement released yesterday, from which I shall quote as follows:

> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia condemns the ballistic missile launch conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 12 February 2017. Colombia urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fully comply with the provisions of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2321 (2016). Colombia will continue to strictly apply the sanctions placed on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea through the various Security Council resolutions until the Security Council stipulates otherwise. The peace and security of the Korean Peninsula cannot continue to be thwarted by such actions, which are a threat to peace in the region and prevent dialogue from being rebuilt.

The President: I thank the representative of Colombia for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. Next on the list of speakers is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Mr. Ju Yong-chol, you have the floor.

Mr. Ju Yong-chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. President, I am taking the floor to respond to the remarks made by some delegations in this chamber.

First, my delegation rejects the accusations against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as they demonstrate yet another sign of blindly following the hostile policy of the United States towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea without any insight into the origins of the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula and ignoring the root cause of the escalated tension on the Korean Peninsula.

Since my Permanent Representative made it quite clear in his statement earlier, I do not feel any need to repeat our position. However, I would like to stress the fact that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is only exercising its legitimate right of self-defence in order to protect its sovereignty and national security against the ever-growing hostile policy and nuclear threats of the United States towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Secondly, my delegation once again categorically rejects all United Nations Security Council resolutions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the latest press statement of the Security Council. The double-standard practice of the Security Council calling into question the self-defence measures of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and adopting numerous resolutions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, while keeping silent on others' missile tests, including the recent United States-Japan joint missile test and United States intercontinental ballistic missile test, give rise to doubts as to its credibility and impartiality. The existing United Nations resolutions, whatever the contents are, are the product of the hostile policy of the United States, fabricated by and in collaboration with its followers, and they have no legal basis.

Thirdly, my delegation would like to draw the attention of the esteemed delegates in this chamber to the joint military exercise by South Korea and the United States scheduled for March. The so-called Key Resolve-Foal Eagle military exercise, the largest ever of its kind, involves huge military forces, including United States nuclear strike forces. It will take place under a plan for a pre-emptive strike on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, such as the "beheading operation". This represents a clear threat and is an absolutely intolerable provocation against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which also undermines security and peace in the region.

Those countries, including Western countries, that are really concerned about the situation on the Korean Peninsula should raise their voices about such dangerous war games being staged at the doorstep of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and demand that the United States stop such moves with a view to defusing the tension on the Korean Peninsula; they should first ask the United States to abandon its hostile policies towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The countries that made some remarks about the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, especially the European Union, should not behave like a passer-by asking the victim to restrain himself and remain defenceless when the assailant relies on violence.

Mr. President, there is one country in this chamber that is still under the full control and umbrella of a big Power and has no right to sovereignty, but it still clings to fanatic moves in order to conduct large-scale military exercises in collaboration with outside forces to attack its compatriots.

Finally, I would like to highlight the following: my delegation is doubtful as to the intentions of those countries singling out the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and making verbal attacks on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in this multilateral forum. I have the feeling that this multilateral forum — instead of focusing on negotiations on global disarmament — is turning into a venue for discussing an issue of a specific country or a place where a specific member State is subjected to groundless criticism by a group of other members.

The representative of the United States just referred to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ignoring the official name of the country — the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — repeatedly ignoring the dignity of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. I would like to call for caution on the language he is using about the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Government. He mentioned the North Korea regime, which is totally unacceptable; he should respect a full-fledged member of the United Nations. So, having said that, we cannot expect any tangible results as long as this forum is abused to force mistrust and confrontation among member States in pursuance of the sinister political purposes of certain countries.

Placing more pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will only push it to bolster its nuclear deterrence to defend its national sovereignty and security. Those countries which term the self-defence measures of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a provocation are advised to demand that the United States drop its hostile policy aimed at stifling the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The President: I thank the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea, Ambassador Kim In-chul.

Mr. Kim In-chul (Republic of Korea): Mr. President, I apologize for asking for the floor again. Even though the repetition by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the umpteenth time of their fanatical position does not merit any further comment, I took the floor just to underline how fanatically they portray themselves.

Fanaticism or fanatical obsession, of course, is based on false and unfounded perceptions and beliefs. Here is one piece of a news report from their news agency. It was a five-page long thing, which just underlines that. I will simply quote from one of the last paragraphs from there. It reads like a fictional piece instilling and instigating fanaticism among their people:

> Participants in the missile firing buried their faces in the broad chest of the Supreme Leader and wet their cheeks with tears of joy and chanted at the top of their lungs "Long life!" over and over again.

The President: I thank the representative of the Republic of Korea for his statement. I recognize the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr. Ju Yong-chol.

Mr. Ju Yong-chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. President, I am taking the floor again in response to the remarks made by South Korea.

It is another sign that demonstrates once again that South Korea is trying to portray the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a provocateur and to instigate mistrust and confrontation among the member States towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. I would like to advise South Korea to stop lobbying the other countries to join their sinister moves to isolate and put pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The President: I thank the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of the United States, Ambassador Robert Wood.

Mr. Wood (United States of America): Mr. President, I apologize for taking the floor once again. I just want to say how satisfied my delegation is today by the loud condemnation we have heard about the ballistic missile tests that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has undertaken in violation of a number of Security Council resolutions, which — I would remind the representative from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — represent international law. I am not going to get into a back-and-forth with the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, but just to say that it has been shown today — and has become very clear to my delegation and, I imagine, to others in this room — just how isolated the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is in its fanatical charges and in its unwillingness to comply with its international obligations. So, until the North complies with its international obligations, it is going to be the subject of continued condemnation for not only its ballistic missile tests but also for its nuclear weapons tests.

The President: I thank the representative of the United States for his statement. I have the Democratic People's Republic of Korea again on the list of speakers. You have the floor, Sir.

Mr. Ju Yong-chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. President, in response to the remarks made by the representative of the United States, he repeatedly mentioned fanaticism. I think, actually, it is the United States that is fanatically clinging to hostile policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with the aim of toppling the social system of the country. But we are not afraid of any condemnation.

As long as the United States maintains its hostile policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and as long as it poses direct nuclear threats towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will continue to strengthen its self-defence capability.

The President: I thank the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for his statement.

Does any other delegation wish to take the floor? That does not seem to be the case.

Before concluding, I would like to give the floor to the incoming President of the Conference. I invite Ambassador Alexander Deyneko of the Russian Federation to take the floor.

Mr. Deyneko (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*). Dear colleagues, the Russian delegation — in its capacity as the next presidency of the Conference on Disarmament — would like to confirm its invitation to all participants in the Conference, and to observers, to attend the thematic meeting of the Conference devoted to the 110th anniversary of the Second Hague Peace Conference. This event, which we hope will be open to the public, will take place in this chamber on 22 February at 3 p.m.

The President: I thank Ambassador Deyneko. Allow me now to announce that the next plenary meeting will be on Friday, 17 February 2017, at 10 a.m., in the Council Chamber. The secretariat will send a reminder by email.

This concludes our business for today.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.